

## FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of *Ilahiyat Studies* is a collection of essays representing various fields of Islamic and religious studies. The first article by Tahir Uluç presents a fine analysis of the problem of Plato's theory of forms as it has been received and discussed within the Islamic intellectual history, focusing specifically on al-Suhrawardī's work. Uluç ends his article by raising several questions that make the article even more valuable.

Ibn Khaldūn has been regarded as one of the most influential thinkers of all time that still has relevance to our contemporary situation. In line with this conviction, Ömer Türker concerns himself with the way Ibn Khaldūn strikes a balance between constants and variables by analyzing metaphysical assumptions of Ibn Khaldūn's general theory in his attempt to explain the nature of royal authority.

In his essay, Salih Çift investigates into the situation of the Bektāshī Order in Egypt. The article is a timely contribution to the debates about the nature of beliefs and practices of the Bektāshīs and their social situation in Egypt and elsewhere, for as the author argues the number of works that treat the Bektāshīs objectively is limited.

Muhammed Tarakçı's article introduces us a treatise, authored by an un-known polemicist of the Ottoman period, which tries to refute the views of Christians about the divine nature of Jesus Christ using Biblical accounts. After giving a brief history of Muslim anti-Christian apologetics and polemics Tarakçı presents an English translation along with the Arabic text.

Our book review editor Kadir Gömbeyaz did a great job, again, by carefully selecting the books to be reviewed and the book reviewers, to whom we are thankful for their meticulous work.

Finally, we are pleased to let our readers know that the editorial team is getting stronger and diversified as we welcome the three of the world's leading scholars in their own fields. We would like to

welcome and thank Professor James W. Morris of Boston College, Professor Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud of University of Technology Malaysia, and Professor Abdulaziz Sachedina of University of Virginia.

We think that this is a full issue and hope that it is fulfilling.